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SPECIAL BULLETIN A
SHAFFER DRUM SITE
MINDEN. FAYETTE COOOUNTY. WV

TO: Regional Response Center
U.S. EPA Region III

DATE: May 2, 1989

FROM: Philip C. Younis, On-Scene Coordinator
Eastern Response and Preparedness Section (3HW22)

THRU: Thomas Voltaggio, Acting Director
Hazardous Waste Management Division (3HW00)

THRU: Dennis P. Carney, Acting Chief
Superfund Branch (3HW20)

THRU: Charlie Kleeman, Chief
Western Response and Oil Enforcement Section (3HW25)

I. INTRODUCTION

An inspection performed in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) has identified an immediate and significant risk of harm to human health and the environment posed by the presence of 19 fifty-five gallon drums containing unknown materials thought to be paint wastes and waste solvents. The drums were found abandoned near the Shaffer Equipment Building which is located in Minden. Fayette County. West Virginia. The drums are in deteriorated condition and rest in several inches of standing water within a diked area.

Section 104 of CERCLA calls for the initiation of immediate removal where there is a threat of a release of a hazardous substance which may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare.

The Delegation of Authority 14-1-A (4/8/86) authorizes the OSC to approve CERCLA removals with a total cost of less than \$50,000. The OSC, therefore, approved the use of CERCLA funds at this site to mitigate the threat to human health and the environment by securing and removing the hazardous unknown substance to a proper disposal facility. AR200001

Special Bulletin A
Shaffer Drum Site

II. BACKGROUND

On November 5, 1987, EPA Field Administrative Specialist, Paula Curtin, informed Mrs. Anna Shaffer (site property owner) of the potential hazard brought on by a leaking 55 gallon drum located with 18 other drums in a small containment pond approximately 50-75' south of Anna Shaffer's office building. The drums were discovered on November 5, 1987 during EPA's transportation and disposal phase of PCB contaminated soil staged at the site. One of the drums was found leaking a brown, paint-like viscous liquid which smelled of solvents.

On November 9, 1987, at the request of Mr. Maynor (former Shaffer Plant Manager), Paula Curtin obtained and gave Mrs. Shaffer a list of cleanup firms for her use in disposing of the drums.

On April 24, 1989, approximately 1.5 years later, EPA revisited the site at the request of the "Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County" group to answer queries regarding the previous PCB removal operation. The 19 drums were found to be still onsite and prompted EPA OSC Younis to contact Anna Shaffer and give her the option of disposing of the drums or having EPA utilize monies to mitigate the threat. Mrs. Shaffer indicated that EPA should remove the drums.

III. THREAT

The potential threat of direct human contact with the drums is substantial. Based on previous site history, it is believed that the drums contain paint wastes and/or waste solvents which could be toxic. The drums are staged in an area with unrestricted access and pose a direct contact threat to any who come in proximity to the drums. Many of the drums are badly deteriorated and leaking into the standing pool of water within the containment area. Drainage from the area flows into nearby Arbuckle Creek.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work proposed for implementation with the emergency appropriation includes the following: 1) Sampling of the drums for disposal analysis; 2) Securing the deteriorated drums in overpacks; 3) Excavation and removal of stained soil areas where spillage of drum contents has occurred; 4) Secure analytical data of material to determine final disposal arrangements; 5) Removal of the drums and soil to designated disposal facilities.

AR200002

**Special Bulletin A
Shaffer Drum Site**

The authorized budget for this emergency removal is:

EPA (DIR)	\$ 4.000
EPA (IND)	6.000
TAT	5.000
EHRT	35.000
TOTAL	\$ 50.000

V. OSC ACTION

On May 2, 1989 the OSC issued Delivery Order No. 0070-03-005 to ERCS in the amount of \$35,000 to initiate removal actions aimed at mitigating the threat to human health and the environment.

At this time, the PRP has been identified. As a result, EPA Enforcement and EPA/ERS have issued verbal notice to the PRP.

Because the conditions of the Shaffer Drum Site meet the conditions of Section 300.65 of the National Contingency Plan for an immediate removal, the OSC has approved this immediate removal action.

**Philip C. Younis, OSC
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